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ABSTRACT

A 1984-1985 update on operations of the Aid for Part-Time Study Program (APTS) in New York State is presented, along with recommendations of the Board of Regents. The APTS program provides up to $2,000 in annual awards to part-time undergraduates enrolled in degree programs. Awards are available for up to 8 years of part-time study for programs normally requiring 4 years of full-time study. The typical APTS recipient in 1984-1985 was on average 31 years old and was financially independent. The average APTS award was $525, and only 28 percent of the total annual appropriation for the program was spent. Of 202 eligible institutions, 145 made awards, and of 250,000 part-time undergraduates, 5,911 received APTS awards. Factors leading to severe underutilization of APTS included: institutional concern about tuition liability for award recipients who failed to achieve a cumulative passing average; necessity for modifying the program to make it administratively feasible; no provision for prepayment to colleges, causing them to finance a state-funded program; and limited access to the program for students who had not accrued six prior semester hours of credit. Data are provided, including the income and age distribution of recipients, and distribution of awards by sector. (SW)

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A REPORT BY THE BOARD OF REGENTS TO THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE

ON

THE AID FOR PART-TIME STUDY PROGRAM: THE FIRST YEAR

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NEW YORK
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The University of the State of New York
THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Albany, New York 12234
December 1985

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A REPORT BY THE BOARD OF REGENTS TO THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE ON THE AID FOR PART-TIME STUDY PROGRAM: THE FIRST YEAR

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The University of the State of New York
THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Albany, New York 12234
December 1985

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ALBANY, NEW YORK 12234

December 27, 1985

To the Governor and the Legislature:

The legislation that established the Aid for Part-Time Study Program in 1984 charges the Board of Regents with the responsibility for submitting a report on the program annually to the Governor and the Legislature. The Regents are asked to make recommendations based upon an evaluation and analysis of the program's operation as reported to them by the New York State Higher Education Services Corporation.

I am pleased to enclose the Regents first annual report on the Aid for Part-Time Study Program pursuant to Section 666 of the Education Law. It includes recommendations for changes in the statute governing the program to improve its effectiveness.

Sincerely,

Gordon M. Ambach

Executive Summary and Regents Recommendations

In 1984, the Legislature passed and the Governor signed into law a bill which established the Aid for Part-Time Study program (APTS) and which requires the Board of Regents to make recommendations to them annually prior to the first day of January.

Findings

The following statistics for 1984-85 provide a brief overview of first-year operations:

- Of 202 eligible institutions, 145 made awards.
- Of 250,000 part-time undergraduates, 5,911 students received APTS awards.
- Of the $11 million annual appropriation, $3.1 million -- 28 percent --was spent.
- The typical APTS recipient had an average age of 31 years and was financially independent compared to the typical TAP recipient whose average age is 23 years and who is financially dependent.
- APTS legislation allows a maximum annual award of $2,000 but the average APTS award for 1984-85 was $525.
- While the intent of the legislation was to deny reimbursement to institutions for students who failed to achieve a cumulative passing average, only 7.5 percent of all awards were denied for that reason.

A number of factors led to severe underutilization of APTS:

- institutional concern about tuition liability for award recipients who failed to achieve a cumulative passing average;
- necessity for modifications in the program to make it administratively feasible;
- no provision for prepayment to institutions, causing them to finance a State-funded program;
- limitations on access to the program for students who had not accrued six prior semester hours of credit.

Recommendations

1. The Regents recommend requiring students to maintain good academic standing and satisfactory academic progress, as in other State assistance programs, and amending the statute to delete the requirement that students maintain a cumulative passing average in order for institutions to be reimbursed for APTS awards. Protections of State funds in the form of amendments to Commissioner's Regulations were developed in 1980 and are now in place for the other State award programs to assure that only students

in good academic standing remain eligible for State support. These same protections should be sufficient for the APTS program without the added liability for institutions.

2. To simplify the administration of the good academic standing requirements, which exist to curb possible abuse and assure the proper awarding of funds, the Regents recommend the law be amended to require that a review of good academic standing be made every term rather than every twelve semester hours. Term by term review of good academic standing is required for all other State award programs.

3. The Regents recommend a technical amendment to change the definition of part-time study to require enrollment in at least six but less than twelve semester hours for the APTS program rather than the current definition which requires enrollment in at least six but no more than eleven semester hours. The minor adjustment would remove the impediment to students carrying between eleven and twelve semester hours and bring the definition of part-time study for APTS into conformity with the existing definition of part-time in Commissioner's Regulations for other assistance programs.

4. In view of the fact that the requirement does not provide a significant measure of academic performance and that it acts as a barrier to attracting new students to postsecondary education, the Regents recommend that the requirement that APTS recipients have accrued six semester hours to be eligible for an award be eliminated. There are other means, such as institutional admissions procedures and good academic standing requirements, to safeguard the proper distribution of APTS awards.

5. The APTS allocation formula currently includes all undergraduate part-time degree-credit enrollment. The Regents recommend that the allocation formula be changed so that the allocation is based on the limited population that would be eligible for an APTS award. At present only part-time undergraduates who are matriculated in degree programs are eligible. If this change were made, APTS funds would be distributed according to a formula that would more closely match dollars to institutions with potentially eligible APTS recipients.

6. The Regents recommend that a provision be included in the statute to permit the New York State Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) to make prepayments at the beginning of a term and to collect refunds in the case of incorrect awards. Such a provision would be consistent with current procedures for TAP and would alleviate cash flow problems for the participating institutions that must now waive tuition at the beginning of a term and wait until the subsequent term to receive reimbursement from the State.

7. The Regents recommend that the 21-day deadline for the reporting of award recipients included in statute be changed to apply from the end of the school's designated drop/add period rather than from the beginning of the term. This change would permit institutions to know that a student is part-time before certifying the student eligible for an APTS award.

The recommendations listed above represent priority items that the Regents deem essential for successful operation of this important aid program. The Regents recommend that the current funding level for the Aid for Part-Time Study program be maintained at $11 million in recognition of the fact that the technical flaws in the program can be remedied thus allowing substantial utilization of the program.

Once the program is able to run without the current technical barriers to full utilization, consideration should be given to additional program modifications which include:

- o modification of the target population to include credit-bearing certificate and diploma program matriculants and those students matriculated in graduate programs;

- o adjustment of the income levels for eligible students giving attention to providing equity with dependent students for independent students with dependents;

- o refining allocation formulae and developing reallocation strategies so that funds may be used in the most effective manner across all sectors of higher education in New York State.

A Report to the Governor and the
Legislature on the Aid for Part-Time
Study Program: The First Year

I. Introduction

With the establishment of the Aid for Part-Time Study Program, enacted in May 1984 as Section 666 of the Education Law, the Legislature and the Governor recognized the need to minimize financial barriers to postsecondary education by extending State student financial aid in new directions. For the first time, greater access was to be provided to those who must study on a part-time basis. The legislation instituted an alternative to the State's other student aid programs by creating APTS as a campus-based program where recipients and award amounts are determined locally by the participating institution rather than as an entitlement program with fixed award schedules that is administered by a central processing agency.

As with any new program, much of the first year of operation was a time of becoming familiar with the details of the law, developing administrative procedures for implementation, amending regulations to accommodate the statutory provisions, and informing institutional officials through workshops and publications in an attempt to assure the distribution of awards to the intended part-time population.

II. General Provisions

The APTS program provides up to $2,000 in annual awards to part-time undergraduate students matriculated in associate and baccalaureate degree programs. Awards are available for up to eight years of part-time study (ten years if a program normally requires five years of full-time study). Each APTS award uses one-half of a term of a student's total undergraduate award eligibility for Tuition Assistance Program awards.

Funds for APTS are allocated to participating institutions according to a formula based on the prior year's part-time degree-credit enrollment. Individual award recipients are selected by the participating institution from among the eligible pool of part-time students, with preference given to those demonstrating the greatest financial need after other grants have been applied to the student's educational costs. The institution determines the amount of the award which may be up to $1,000 per semester or tuition, whichever is less. The award is made by means of the institution's waiving tuition in the amount of the award. At the conclusion of the term, the institution is reimbursed for the tuition waived for each award recipient who achieves a cumulative passing average. Students who fail to achieve a cumulative passing average are not liable for the tuition waived.

III. Student Eligibility Criteria

In addition to requirements such as residency and income, students must also meet the following academic criteria to be eligible for an APTS award:

- be matriculated in an approved undergraduate degree program;
- have earned at least six semester hours in previous study;
- carry a courseload of at least six but no more than eleven semester hours a semester or at least four but less than eight semester hours a quarter;
- remain in good academic standing as defined by the Commissioner.

IV. Institutional Procedures

According to statute, within three weeks of the beginning of a term, participating institutions must report to the New York State Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) the students selected as award recipients, their net taxable income, and the amount of each award. The institution must waive tuition in the amount of the award for each APTS recipient. Within six weeks of the conclusion of the term, the institution must certify to the Corporation whether each award recipient achieved a cumulative passing average. The institution is reimbursed for each successful student, but may not demand tuition payment from those who fail to achieve a cumulative passing average.

V. Summary of First Year Operations

The most rapid growth in enrollments over the past decade has been among part-time students. Between 1972 and 1982, part-time undergraduate enrollment increased by 30 percent. In contrast, full-time student enrollments increased by only 20 percent. Since 1982, full-time enrollments have decreased while part-time enrollments have experienced modest increases. Projections indicate that while full-time enrollment will continue to decrease, the number of students who pursue part-time study will remain steady or increase over the next decade.

During 1984-85, the first academic year of the operation of the Aid for Part-Time Study program, there were approximately 250,000 part-time students studying in 202 institutions which were eligible to participate in the $11 million APTS program. (Not all those students would have been eligible to receive awards for a variety of reasons.) Initially, 178 of the eligible institutions chose to participate in the program. Only 145 (72 percent of those eligible) actually made awards. The awards totalled approximately $3.5 million to 7,329 part-time students. Those numbers were further reduced when students who were found to be ineligible for awards were decertified. The final total of awards which were reimbursed to institutions for academic year 1984-85 was $3.1 million to 5,911 students. Approximately 28 percent of the $11 million appropriation was spent and only one out of 42 part-time students, across all sectors of higher education, benefited from the program.

A further breakout of figures shows that while the SUNY two- and four-year colleges had the largest allocation of funds (47.7 percent of the total) and the largest number of award recipients (43.5 percent), that sector showed the lowest percentage of dollars spent — 19.4 percent of a total allocation of $5,254,491. City University colleges were allocated 23.8 percent ($2,615,963) of the total and spent 26.5 percent of their allocation. Independent sector colleges received 25.9 percent ($2,845,983) of the total allocation and awarded 45.5 percent of that allocation. Degree-granting proprietary institutions were allocated only 2.6 percent ($283,363)

Statistics reported by the Higher Education Services Corporation show that the part-time student population being served by APTS contrasts strongly with the typical full-time undergraduate who receives TAP. While undergraduate TAP recipients have an average age of 23 years, the APTS recipient's average age is 31 years. While 73 percent of undergraduate TAP recipients are dependent students, 90 percent of the APTS recipients were financially independent. Only 720 dependent students received APTS awards. The APTS program fixed income ceilings for dependent students at $22,000 net taxable income, and at $15,000 for independent students, including those with dependents of their own. HESC reports that while almost all APTS recipients were independent students, three-fourths had net taxable incomes of less than $10,000 with 21 percent having zero net taxable incomes. Typically, the APTS student was a mature independent student with relatively low income. Although data on additional factors were not collected for the HESC student profile during the 1984-85 year, institutional officials have reported that APTS students were often heads of household with dependents. They also indicated that many part-time students were screened out of the program because they were typically older, working adults with dependents, having incomes of less than $22,000 (the ceiling for dependent students) but greater than the $15,000 limit for independents. The APTS program made no special allowance on income levels for independent students with dependents. In contrast, the income-based award schedules for the Tuition Assistance Program do make allowance for emancipated students who have dependents.

Although the APTS legislation allows for a total maximum award of up to $2,000 annually, statistics for the first year show that the average award was only about $525. In the public sectors the average award was about $400 at both two- and four-year institutions of the State and City Universities. The largest awards, averaging about $860, were made by 4-year independent institutions, followed by the degree-granting proprietary institutions where the average award was $720. At the 2-year independent institutions, the average award of $536 was closest to the average part-time award across all sectors. In sum, whereas institutions had discretion as to the amount of award with a ceiling of $2,000 per annum or total tuition, whichever was less, they were very conservative in the dollar amount of awards granted. Some institutional officials suggest that low dollar amounts were awarded in an effort to minimize the financial liability to the institution should a student experience difficulty and fail to achieve a cumulative passing average.

The legislation denies reimbursement to institutions for students who failed to achieve a cumulative passing average. For 1984-85 only 548 students or 7.5 percent of the awardees were decertified for that reason. However, as noted above, many institutions were influenced by this provision in law. A total of $260,096 of tuition liability was passed back to institutions for students who failed to achieve a cumulative passing average. A far greater percentage, 12 percent or 870 students, were decertified for other reasons which included such problems as students having exhausted TAP/APTS eligibility, having failed to earn six prior college credits, having dropped below the minimum courseload of six credits, or having been matriculated in an undergraduate certificate or diploma program rather than a degree program. Many of these problems can be attributed to certifying officers having to meet statutorily mandated certifying deadlines before adequate information on student eligibility was available, and to basic unfamiliarity with the unique aspects of the APTS program.

A review of actual cases of APTS students revealed that recipients who failed to obtain a cumulative passing average had lower net taxable incomes than those who met the criterion. While 40 percent of all recipients had incomes below $5,000, almost 60 percent of those recipients who did not have a cumulative passing average had net taxable incomes of $5,000 or less. By sector, 42.2 percent of this group were enrolled at CUNY institutions, 36.1 percent at SUNY institutions, 20.6 percent at independent institutions and 1.1 percent at degree-granting proprietary schools. These figures indicate that the use of the term-by-term "cumulative passing average," a measure which is unique to the APTS program and has no generally accepted academic application, especially disadvantages the most needy students.

Although institutions initially indicated high interest in participating in the APTS program, a HESC survey of institutions conducted in spring 1985 found the three major reasons for low participation to be: institutional liability for students who might not achieve a cumulative passing average; necessity for modifications in the program in order to make it administratively feasible; and lack of knowledge about the program among potential student recipients. More recent contacts with institutional officials indicated some changes in institutional attitude: the institutional liability issue was still paramount; the problem of lack of understanding about the program had diminished; and, in addition, the fact that no provision has been made for prepayment of a portion of the funds to institutions at the outset of the term will continue to cause many institutions to limit their participation.

Given a part-time population of a quarter of a million students and a pool of $11 million, the APTS program in its first year served fewer than 6,000 students and made available only $3.1 million in part-time aid. Due recognition must be given to the fact that 1984-85 was the start-up year of a new program. However, while 3,399 students were initially selected and appeared on the fall 1984 HESC recipient lists, one year later, early statistics from the fall 1985 recipient lists show only a slight rise to 4,580 students selected. This experience would suggest that serious flaws exist in the program beyond even the most extraordinary problems which might be attributed to growing pains in a new program. After a year's experience with the program, institutions and the agencies involved in the administration and monitoring of the APTS program find that the program is far less effective than expected in meeting the tuition needs of part-time students in New York State.

Since the population of part-time undergraduate students is projected to remain at or exceed the quarter million student level for the foreseeable future, serious consideration needs to be given to identifying and remedying those aspects of the APTS program which diminished its usefulness.

VI. Recommendations of the Regents

The experiences of the first year of the APTS program have been studied to suggest ways of correcting those statutory provisions which have resulted in unforeseen difficulties and of improving certain technical aspects which affect program administration and student eligibility.

A series of meetings of Department staff with sector representatives, and staff of other agencies involved in State student financial aid, was held expressly to review the APTS program and proposals for change. The discussions at these meetings, the day-to-day comments and inquiries from the field, and the Higher Education Services Corporation's report to the Regents, "The New York State Aid for Part-Time Study Program: A Progress Report" have provided the bases for the Regents recommendations.

1. Tuition Liability

Although the APTS program is governed by many of the same general provisions in law and regulation that apply to TAP and other State awards, there are two unique features: (1) the program is campus-based: the participating institution selects recipients, determines the award amounts, and waives tuition in the amount of the award; and (2) the institution is liable for the award and will not be reimbursed for the tuition waived if a recipient fails to achieve a cumulative passing average in the term in which the award is received.

Although the campus-based nature of the program generally has been adequately managed by the participating institutions -- many of which are experienced in administering the Federal campus-based programs -- most are concerned about the institutional penalty if an award recipient is unsuccessful in achieving a cumulative passing average. If the intent of the law in this regard is to safeguard State student financial aid funds from abuse, adequate remedies exist in the program outside of this additional requirement that colleges and universities be liable for funds expended for students who do not receive a cumulative passing average. Of the institutions that responded to the HESC survey about the APTS program, 77 percent cited the tuition liability as a significant concern. Most who have expressed an opinion do not see the basis for holding the institution liable when the student must in any case meet good academic standing requirements to remain eligible for subsequent awards. Amended Commissioner's Regulations in 1980 established additional safeguards by requiring that recipients of State awards satisfy minimum standards of program pursuit and satisfactory academic progress to remain eligible for subsequent awards. The requirements are explicit and provide a sound basis for audits of the award programs by the Office of the State Comptroller. Audit results suggest that the safeguards have been highly successful in curbing the abuses that plagued the early years of the Tuition Assistance Program. In view of this encouraging history, institutions question why State tax dollars need more protection in the APTS program than in TAP, especially when there is an $11 million funding cap for APTS while TAP is an entitlement program with no funding limit and an expenditure in FY 1984-85 of $381 million.

According to statistics on first-year usage, the average APTS recipient was 31 years old and was an independent student. Many were heads of households with dependent children. Such students typically are serious about pursuing their educational goals but are often limited by family and/or job responsibilities. Institutions point out that, in consequence, such students are more likely to be faced with unexpected situations that conflict with their educational plans than the typical 18-20 year old full-time undergraduate. These conflicts may adversely

affect the student's academic performance or force his or her withdrawal in a particular term of study. This group of students typically has a successful record of program completion. College officials claim that since there is no way for campuses to predict which of these students -- often those with very solid overall academic records --may fail to achieve a cumulative passing average due to external circumstances. Accordingly, they find institutional liability an unfair penalty.

In response to possible financial loss, a number of institutions chose not to participate in the APTS program at all; others participated at a token level. Many that did participate imposed additional selection criteria and carefully screened potentially eligible students to eliminate those with records which suggested any risk. For example, more than half of the institutions responding to the HESC survey indicated they required a minimum grade point average; many indicated that other criteria were used as well. While there is no evidence to show that students who were selected for an award through these processes were any more likely to achieve a cumulative passing average than those who were arbitrarily barred from receiving APTS awards, the strategy did limit the number of awards. Additionally, this approach undoubtedly disqualified many applicants whose only hope to undertake postsecondary study was through part-time aid.

One of the most interesting findings reported by the Higher Education Services Corporation was the strong relationship between income and academic performance. Of the APTS recipients who failed to achieve a cumulative passing average, 57.9 percent had net taxable incomes of $5,000 or less. If institutions continue to remain liable for the tuition for such students, as is now required by statute, this provision may, contrary to the program's intent, have the effect of further disadvantaging the most needy students by barring them from participating in this aid program, thus curtailing further college study.

Recommendation:

The Regents recommend requiring students to maintain good academic standing and satisfactory academic progress, as in other State assistance programs, and amending the statute to delete the requirement that students maintain a cumulative passing average in order for institutions to be reimbursed for APTS awards. Protections of State funds in the form of amendments to Commissioner's Regulations were developed in 1980 and are now in place for the other State award programs to assure that only students in good academic standing remain eligible for State support. These same protections should be sufficient for the APTS program without the added liability for institutions.

2. Review of Good Academic Standing

The law provides that institutions shall review the academic standing of award recipients after completion of each twelve semester hours. In practice, this provision has been difficult to administer. Since students carrying between six and eleven credits may qualify, their credits may not accrue in even increments of twelve every other term.

Recommendation:

To simplify the administration of the good academic standing requirements, which exist to curb possible abuse and assure the proper awarding of funds, the Regents recommend the law be amended to require that a review of good academic standing be made every term rather than every 12 semester hours. Term by term review of good academic standing is required for all other State award programs.

3. Definition of Part-Time Study

The law defines part-time as enrollment for at least six but no more than eleven semester hours. Since some institutions offer courses which carry fractional credit, it is possible for a student to carry eleven and a half semester hours. Under the current definition such a student would be ineligible for an APTS award. At the same time, the student would be ineligible for a TAP award, which requires enrollment in at least twelve semester hours.

Recommendation:

The Regents recommend a technical amendment to change the definition of part-time study for the APTS program to require enrollment in at least six but less than twelve semester hours rather than the current definition which requires enrollment in at least six but no more than eleven semester hours. The minor adjustment would remove the impediment to students carrying between eleven and twelve semester hours and bring the definition of part-time study for APTS into conformity with the existing definition of part-time in Commissioner's Regulations for other assistance programs.

4. Six Credits of Prior Academic Work

The statute requires that students have completed six credits of prior academic work in order to be eligible for an APTS award. Institutions have questioned the purpose of this provision and have explained that six credits is neither a significant measure of academic performance nor a predictor of future success. For example, a student may attend and drop out of several institutions yet manage to accrue six credits. Additionally, in view of the intent stated in the law to provide APTS for those with the greatest financial need, requiring six credits may impose a barrier to those who are most in need of the aid and are unable even to begin college study.

To be eligible for an award, APTS recipients must be matriculated students in an approved postsecondary degree program. As part of the admissions process, Commissioner's Regulations require that an institution make a judgment concerning an applicant's capacity to undertake college-level study and its capacity to provide the instructional and other support the student may need. The admissions procedures can therefore be viewed as a means of assessing a student's potential for success which is more useful than requiring a student to have accrued six credits, yet without the barrier to beginning postsecondary study that such a requirement may create for the neediest students.

Recommendation:

In view of the fact that the requirement does not provide a significant measure of academic performance and that it acts as a barrier to attracting new students to postsecondary education, the Regents recommend that the requirement that APTS recipients have accrued six semester hours to be eligible for an award be eliminated. There are other means, such as institutional admissions procedures and good academic standing requirements, to safeguard the proper distribution of APTS awards.

5. Allocation Formula

An institution's allocation of APTS funds currently is based on the ratio of its undergraduate part-time degree-credit enrollment to the total undergraduate part-time degree-credit enrollment at all participating institutions. This population includes all undergraduate students enrolled part-time in any credit-bearing courses. The students may or may not be matriculated. If matriculated, they may be enrolled in certificate or diploma programs, rather than degree programs. However, only part-time students matriculated in undergraduate degree programs are eligible for an APTS award. Thus, the current formula has often resulted in a substantial allocation to those institutions with a large part-time population but with many students who are not matriculated in associate or baccalaureate degree programs and therefore unable to benefit from the APTS program. In consequence, some colleges received more dollars than they could use, even if every eligible APTS applicant received an award.

Recommendation:

The APTS allocation formula currently includes all undergraduate part-time degree-credit enrollment. The Regents recommend that the allocation formula be changed so that the allocation is based on the limited population that would be eligible for an APTS award. At present, only part-time undergraduates who are matriculated in degree programs are eligible. If this change were made, APTS funds would be distributed according to a formula that would more closely match dollars to institutions with potentially eligible APTS recipients.

6. Prepayment

According to the statute, institutions must waive tuition in the amount of the award for each APTS recipient, must certify to the Corporation those students with a cumulative passing average, and will not be reimbursed until six weeks after the conclusion of the term. In view of the statute's use of the term "reimbursement," no prepayment was made to participating institutions during the first year of operation. The lack of funds at the beginning of a term caused cash flow problems for many institutions. It was not uncommon for an institution to waive tuition in September for a fall term award but not be reimbursed until the following April. Of the institutions responding to the HESC survey, 34 percent cited the lack of prepayment as a reason for underutilization of the appropriated funds. Thus, the APTS program is a State-funded student financial aid program that is substantially subsidized by institutional monies in the form of lost revenue during the more than six months between the date of certification and the reimbursement date.

Recommendation:

The Regents recommend that a provision be included in the statute to permit the New York State Higher Education Services Corporation to make pre-payments at the beginning of a term and to collect refunds in the case of incorrect awards. Such a provision would be consistent with current procedures for TAP and would alleviate cash flow problems for the participating institutions that must now waive tuition at the beginning of a term and wait until the subsequent term to receive reimbursement from the State.

7. 21-Day Reporting Deadline

Current provisions for the APTS program call for the reporting of students selected to receive an award from among the pool of eligible applicants within 21 days of the start of a term. Of the institutions responding to the HESC survey, 70 percent reported that the 21-day deadline is too short and, in practice, has proved difficult to meet. At the beginning of a term, students' schedules are not always definite within the first 21 days. Changes are usually permitted up until the end of the "drop/add" period when students may add or drop courses. A determination on a student's status as a full-or part-time student is often difficult if not impossible to make prior to this point. A change in the reporting deadline to a point later in the term would permit institutions time to make replacements for students initially selected for an award who were later found to be ineligible.

Recommendation:

The Regents recommend that the 21-day deadline for the reporting of award recipients included in statute be changed to apply from the end of the school's designated drop/add period rather than from the beginning of the term. This change would permit institutions to know that a student is part-time before certifying the student eligible for an APTS award.

Conclusion

The recommendations listed above represent priority items that the Regents find essential for successful operation of this important aid program. The Regents further recommend that the current funding level for the Aid for Part-Time Study program be maintained at $11 million in recognition of the fact that the technical flaws in the program can be remedied, thus allowing substantial utilization of the program.

Once the program is able to run without the current technical barriers to full utilization, consideration should be given to additional program modifications which include:

- o modification of the target population to include credit-bearing certificate and diploma program matriculants and those students matriculated in graduate programs.

- o adjustment of the income levels for eligible students giving attention to providing equity with dependent students for independent students with dependents.

- refining allocation formulae and developing reallocation strategies so that funds may be used in the most effective manner across all sectors of higher education in New York State.

Sector Distribution of Part-Time Degree-Credit Undergraduate Enrollment

Fall 1984

Table 1

Sector	Number of P-T Students
Total Public	182,562
Total SUNY	120,290
Total CUNY	62,272
Total Independent	66,221
Total Proprietary	6,840
Total State	255,623

APTS Recipients as a Percentage of Total P-T Degree-Credit Enrollment by Sector

Fall 1984

Table 2

Sector	Number of Part-Time Degree-Credit Undergraduates	Number of APTS Recipients*	% of Enrollment
SUNY	120,290	2,566	2.1%
CUNY	62,272	1,669	2.7%
Independent	66,221	1,546	2.3%
Proprietary	6,840	127	1.9%
	255,623	5,908	

Source: New York State Education Department
* From New York State Higher Education Services Corporation

Aid for Part-Time Study (APTS) 1984-85 Data

Table 3

Income Distribution

Income Category	Number of Cases	Percent of Total	Cumulative Percent
$ 0	1,209	20.5%	20.5%
$ 1- 5,000	1,363	23.1%	43.5%
$ 5,001-10,000	1,896	32.1%	75.6%
$10,001-15,000	1,296	21.9%	97.5%
$15,001-22,000	147	2.5%	100.0%
TOTAL	5,911	100.1%	100.0%

Percentages may not total exactly 100% due to rounding.

Table 4

Age Distribution

Age Category (In Years)	Number of Cases	Percent of Total	Cumulative Percent
15-19	144	2.4%	2.4%
20-24	1,570	26.6%	29.0%
25-29	1,402	23.7%	52.7%
30-34	1,075	18.2%	70.9%
35-44	1,247	21.1%	92.0%
45-59	432	7.3%	99.3%
60 and up	39	.7%	100.0%
TOTAL	5,909	100.0%	100.0%

Missing cases = 2

Source: NYSHESC Research Division, APTS Student Mirror File as of 09/27/85.

Table 5

Financial Status Distribution

Financial Status	Number of Cases	Percent of Total
Independent	5,190	87.8%
Dependent	720	12.2%
TOTAL	5,910	100.0%

Missing cases = 1

Table 6

Sector Distribution of Award Recipients

Sector	Number of Cases	Percent of Total
CUNY 4-Year	987	16.7%
CUNY 2-Year	682	11.5%
Total CUNY	1,669	28.2%
SUNY 4-Year	583	9.9%
SUNY 2-Year	1,983	33.6%
Total SUNY	2,566	43.5%
Independent Non-Profit 4-Year	1,406	23.8%
Independent Non-Profit 2-Year	140	2.4%
Total Independent Non-Profit	1,546	26.2%
Degree Proprietary	127	2.1%
TOTAL	5,908	100.0%

Missing cases = 3*

* Three students who received APTS awards in more than one sector during the year were excluded from the table.

Source: NYSHESC Research Division, APTS Student Mirror File as of 09/27/85.

Table 7

Sector Distribution of APTS Funds

Sector	Allocation	Percent of Total
CUNY 4-Year	$ 1,687,966	15.4%
CUNY 2-Year	927,997	8.4%
Total CUNY	$ 2,615,963	23.8%
SUNY 4-Year	$ 1,388,822	12.6%
SUNY 2-Year	3,865,669	35.0%
Total SUNY	$ 5,254,491	47.7%
Independent Non-Profit 4-Year	$ 2,734,039	24.9%
Independent Non-Profit 2-Year	111,944	1.0%
Total Independent Non-Profit	$ 2,845,983	25.9%
Degree Proprietary	$ 283,363	2.6%
TOTAL	$10,999,800	100.0%

Sector	Allocation	Amount Awarded	% Spent	Average Award
CUNY 4-Year	$ 1,687,966	422,939.45	25.1%	$429
CUNY 2-Year	927,997	271,328.73	29.2%	398
Total CUNY	$ 2,615,963	694,268.18	26.5%	$416
SUNY 4-Year	$ 1,388,822	238,973.47	17.2%	$410
SUNY 2-Year	3,865,669	779,458.91	20.2%	393
Total SUNY	$ 5,254,491	1,018,432.38	19.4%	$397
Indep. 4-Year	$ 2,734,039	1,220,016.06	44.6%	$868
Indep. 2-Year	111,944	75,103	67.1%	536
Total Indep.	$ 2,845,983	1,295,119.06	45.5%	$838
Degree Prop.	$ 283,363	91,392.94	32.3%	$720
TOTAL	$10,999,800	3,099,212.56	28.2%	$525

Source: NYSHESC Grants and Scholarship Division

Aid for Part-Time Study (APTS) 1984-85 Data

Table 8

Percent Distribution of Income Category by Sector and Level

Income Category	CUNY 4-Year	CUNY 2-Year	Total CUNY
	Sector and Level		
$ 0	23.2%	33.9%	27.6%
$ 1- 5,000	21.3%	22.6%	21.8%
$ 5,001-10,000	33.9%	30.6%	32.6%
$10,001-15,000	19.9%	11.7%	16.5%
$15,001-22,000	1.7%	1.2%	1.5%
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Number of Cases	987	682	1,669

Income Category	SUNY 4-Year	SUNY 2-Year	Total SUNY
$ 0	15.4%	19.5%	18.6%
$ 1- 5,000	23.8%	23.4%	23.5%
$ 5,001-10,000	31.1%	33.0%	32.6%
$10,001-15,000	27.4%	21.2%	22.6%
$15,001-22,000	2.2%	2.8%	2.7%
TOTAL	100.0%	99.9%	100.0%
Number of Cases	583	1,981	2,566

Income Category	Independent Non-Profit 4-Year	Independent Non-Profit 2-Year	Total Independent Non-Profit
$ 0	16.6%	11.4%	16.1%
$ 1- 5,000	23.7%	24.3%	23.7%
$ 5,001-10,000	29.9%	38.6%	30.7%
$10,001-15,000	26.7%	22.9%	26.3%
$15,001-22,000	3.2%	2.9%	3.2%
TOTAL	100.0%	100.1%	100.0%
Number of Cases	1,406	140	1,546

Aid for Part-Time Study (APTS) 1984-85 Data

Table 8 Continued

Percent Distribution of Income Category by Sector and Level

	Sector and Level		
Income Category*	Degree Proprietary	Number Cases All Sectors	Grand Total
$ 0	18.1%	1,209	20.5%
$ 1- 5,000	21.3%	1,362	23.1%
$ 5,001-10,000	32.3%	1,895	32.1%
$10,001-15,000	25.2%	1,295	21.9%
$15,001-22,000	3.1%	147	2.5%
TOTAL	100.0%		100.0%
Number of Cases	127	5,908	5,908

Missing cases = 3**

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* Net taxable incomes

** Three students who received APTS awards in more than one sector during the year were excluded from the table.

Percentages may not total exactly 100% due to rounding.

Source: NYSHESC Research Division, APTS Student Mirror File as of 09/27/85. Net taxable incomes.

Aid for Part-Time Study (APTS) 1984-85 Data

Table 9

Award Statistics by Sector and Income Category

Sector and Income Category	Total Value of Awards	Average Award Size	Number of Awards
TOTAL	$3,096,956	$524	5,908
CUNY 4-Year	$ 424,420	$430	987
$ 0	95,958	419	229
$ 1- 5,000	92,237	439	210
$ 5,001-10,000	144,119	430	335
$10,001-15,000	84,282	430	196
$15,001-22,000	7,824	460	17
CUNY 2-Year	$ 269,849	$396	682
$ 0	93,773	406	231
$ 1- 5,000	61,179	397	154
$ 5,001-10,000	80,441	385	209
$10,001-15,000	30,930	387	80
$15,001-22,000	3,525	441	8
SUNY 4-Year	$ 238,208	$409	583
$ 0	37,213	413	90
$ 1- 5,000	57,810	416	139
$ 5,001-10,000	71,870	397	181
$10,001-15,000	67,144	420	160
$15,001-22,000	4,171	321	13
SUNY 2-Year	$ 778,887	$393	1,983
$ 0	150,998	390	387
$ 1- 5,000	178,679	384	465
$ 5,001-10,000	265,949	406	655
$10,001-15,000	163,040	388	420
$15,001-22,000	20,231	361	56

Aid for Part-Time Study (APTS) 1984-85 Data

Table 9 Continued

Award Statistics by Sector and Income Category

Sector and Income Category	Total Value of Awards	Average Award Size	Number of Awards
Independent Non-Profit 4-Year	$1,219,096	$867	1,406
$ 0	170,813	733	233
$ 1- 5,000	299,631	900	333
$ 5,001-10,000	366,244	872	420
$10,001-15,000	349,133	931	375
$15,001-22,000	33,275	739	45
Independent Non-Profit 2-Year	$ 75,103	$536	140
$ 0	6,288	393	16
$ 1- 5,000	19,805	583	34
$ 5,001-10,000	29,560	547	54
$10,001-15,000	17,280	540	32
$15,001-22,000	2,170	543	4
Degree Proprietary	$ 91,393	$720	127
$ 0	16,560	720	23
$ 1- 5,000	21,376	792	27
$ 5,001-10,000	28,875	704	41
$10,001-15,000	22,139	692	32
$15,001-22,000	2,443	611	4

Total cases = 5,908

Missing cases = 3*

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* Three students who received APTS awards in more than one sector during the year were excluded from the table.

Sum detail may not add to total due to rounding to nearest dollar.

Source: NYSHESC Research Division, APTS Student Mirror File as of 09/27/85.

Aid for Part-Time Study (APTS) 1984-85 Data

Table 10

Average Age and Percent Financially Independent
by Sector and Income Category

Sector and Income Category	Average Age* in Years	% Financially Independent**	Number of Cases
TOTAL	31	88%	5,906
CUNY 4-Year	31	88%	987
$ 0	31	92%	229
$ 1- 5,000	30	85%	210
$ 5,001-10,000	31	90%	335
$10,001-15,000	33	88%	196
$15,001-22,000	22	0%**	17
CUNY 2-Year	31	88%	682
$ 0	30	97%	231
$ 1- 5,000	31	89%	154
$ 5,001-10,000	32	85%	209
$10,001-15,000	33	78%	80
$15,001-22,000	22	0%**	8
SUNY 4-Year	31	90%	583
$ 0	31	93%	90
$ 1- 5,000	32	94%	139
$ 5,001-10,000	31	93%	181
$10,001-15,000	32	89%	160
$15,001-22,000	21	0%**	13
SUNY 2-Year	30	88%	1,982
$ 0	33	93%	387
$ 1- 5,000	30	93%	465
$ 5,001-10,000	30	90%	654
$10,001-15,000	30	87%	420
$15,001-22,000	21	0%**	56

* Age as of 12/31/84.

** By statute, only dependent recipient incomes could exceed $15,000.

Aid for Part-Time Study (APTS) 1984-85 Data

Table 10 Continued

Average Age and Percent Financially Independent
by Sector and Income Category

Sector and Income Category	Average Age* in Years	% Financially Independent**	Number of Cases
Independent Non-Profit 4-Year	31	86%	1,405
$ 0	32	90%	233
$ 1- 5,000	30	85%	332
$ 5,001-10,000	30	89%	420
$10,001-15,000	32	92%	375
$15,001-22,000	22	0%**	45
Independent Non-Profit 2-Year	33	93%	140
$ 0	38	100%	16
$ 1- 5,000	33	97%	34
$ 5,001-10,000	32	93%	54
$10,001-15,000	32	97%	32
$15,001-22,000	24	0%**	4
Degree Proprietary	28	84%	127
$ 0	30	91%	23
$ 1- 5,000	28	82%	27
$ 5,001-10,000	27	88%	41
$10,001-15,000	30	88%	32
$15,001-22,000	23	0%**	4

Total cases = 5,906

Missing cases = 5***

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* Age as of 12/31/84.

** By statute, only dependent recipient incomes could exceed $15,000.

*** Three students who received APTS awards in more than one sector during the year were excluded from the table. Two additional students were excluded due to questionable codes in the age field.

Source: NYSHESC Research Division, APTS Student Mirror File as of 09/27/85.

Table 11

Income Distribution of Students Not Maintaining Cumulative Passing Averages During 1984-85

Income Category	Number of Cases	Percent of Total	Cumulative Percent
$ 0	183	33.4%	33.4%
$ 1- 5,000	134	24.5%	57.9%
$ 5,001-10,000	137	25.0%	82.9%
$10,001-15,000	85	15.5%	98.4%
$15,001-22,000	9	1.6%	100.0%
TOTAL	548	100.1%	100.0%

Table 12

Sector Distribution of Students Not Maintaining Cumulative Passing Averages During 1984-85

Sector	Number of Cases	Percent of Total	Percent of Recipients in Sector
CUNY 4-Year	128	23.4%	9.6%
CUNY 2-Year	103	18.8%	12.3%
Total CUNY	231	42.2%	10.6%
SUNY 4-Year	33	6.0%	4.8%
SUNY 2-Year	165	30.1%	7.0%
Total SUNY	198	36.1%	6.5%
Independent Non-Profit 4-Year	106	19.3%	5.9%
Independent Non-Profit 2-Year	7	1.3%	4.3%
Total Independent Non-Profit	113	20.6%	5.7%
Degree Proprietary	6	1.1%	4.1%
TOTAL	548	100.0%	7.5%

Source: NYSHESC Research Division, APTS Student Mirror File as of 09/27/85.